

**SAC Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, October 24, 2022 at 7:00pm**  
**John Wanless Public School in the Library**

**Attendees**

Jamie Parkes, Catherine Jones, Meg Berkovitz, Eric Risen, Heather Halnan, Jackie Chan, Kirsten Uhre, Lisa Higginbottom, Caryn Levin, Joel Podbere, Jeff Roberts, Candice Kelamis and other community members.

**Chair Discussion (Eric Risen)**

- Discussion about lack of parent participation and poor meeting attendance.
- Discussion about offence taken to direct donation requests. Commitment to consider other approaches, including cash online. Ultimately, the goal is to ensure the kids are happy and get required resources.
- Note that TDSB oversees how SAC spends.

**Administration Report Discussion (Vice Principal, Jamie Parkes)**

- See attached administration update.

**Treasurer Report & Budget Meeting Summary (Joel Podbere)**

- Raised \$50,000 revenue from direct donations – pizza lunch, spring fair (\$52,000).
- Spent majority last year on classroom grants, therefore a surplus of \$33,000 last year.
- Start year with \$50,000 in bank and expect \$70,000 revenue due to pizza, etc., more events. Want \$20,000 buffer at the end of the year.
- Where to spend? We get submissions and try to touch as many kids as we can, then approve all that make sense.
- Peter reviews requests in advance. \$20,000 fixed items, \$3000 admin, \$65,000 submissions.
- Examples: a) Phys Ed - Submission for equipment, etc.; b) Technology - replace smart boards with TV screens; c) Music - On Broadway; d) \$5000 to improve school entry area, murals.; f) Scientist in the School – two classes.
- Questions regarding ongoing use of SAGOTO Solutions and whether there is an alternative to parent donations to the class.

**Fundraising Report (Catherine Jones)**

- Current fundraising initiatives include: a) spirit wear, JW athletic wear and house colour items; b) pointsettias; c) art cards by kids (buy in March/April).
- Other considerations are Purdy's chocolate for Valentine's Day and a bingo night.
- The Spring Fair is on June 9.

**Curriculum Support Report (Kristen Uhre)**

- Upcoming initiatives include a) Scientist in the School for all; b) Roots of Empathy; and c) Art Express.

**Extra-Curricular Report (Jackie Chan)**

- After 4 started today; a couple of programs have sold out.
- Will be considering lunch programs in winter.

- Have received feedback to give information on programs to parents earlier especially to reach those that are new to the school. Perhaps this can be done through the SAC website.
- Another option is for the Administration to send correspondence to new parents/kids to school.
- How to reach more people? How to welcome new families?
- Not opening After 4 to kindergarten due to end of day gap.

#### **Community Support Report (Caryn Levin)**

- Not that many items were collected from the recent Breakfast Club of Canada donation drive.
- Winter clothing drive is upcoming.
- On-going attempts to connect with our sister school (Flemington)

#### **Chair Closing (Eric Risen)**

- We appreciate all parents that attend SAC meetings. Do all this for the kids' smiles.

## **Admin Update for SAC Mtg to be held Oct 24th, 2022**

### **Staffing & Enrolment Update**

Our student enrolment remains at 631.

**Support staff:** The constant movement of DECE's has continued during the past weeks. We have lost Ms. Bleiman from Room 101 but we will regain Ms. Lihong Zhang who will return to Room 101 later this month. We unfortunately also lost Ms. Lau from Room 11 as she was placed at west Prep. It is our sincere hope that she will return to us in the future. We are in the process of trying to secure a temporary replacement DECE for her. As far as lunch supervisors are concerned, we have interviewed and submitted documentation for two new hires six weeks ago yet they still have not been approved centrally. This means that we are **very short** at lunchtime.

### **Facilities Update:**

The roof work is mostly finished but we still have ongoing flooding issues above our library and Room 109. The problem lies in the fact that there is only one drain for such a large area and the water pools every time it rains. Eventually the water finds its way down through the cracks. Although the roofing company has indicated that they are done, TDSB will have to install additional drains to allow the water to escape. Decking Installation TBD. Scaffolding/garbage pickup TBD.

Our temporary fence will be replaced in the very near future with yet another temporary fence- this one with a cement base and a metal extension. The location of the new temporary fence will allow us to regain the jogging track at the south end of our yard as well as ensure that soil erosion is slowed down/eliminated. The permanent fence will likely be installed in the spring. We have continuously experienced caretaking shortages during the last few weeks.

### **System/School Update:**

November is TDSB Census Month at the TDSB!

The Student Census is a confidential and voluntary survey that asks students important questions about their identities and school experiences. We encourage all students to complete a Student Census survey, as the data collected provides valuable information to help improve schools for the benefit of all.

Students in Grades 4 to 12 will complete the census themselves online in class, while parents/guardians/caregivers will complete the census for students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 online at home. To learn more about the Student Census, please visit the [Student Census](#). More information will also be provided directly to students at school and to parents/guardians/caregivers by email in November.

Members of our school's Equity Committee have met with TDSB Central staff on October 12<sup>th</sup> and will meet again tomorrow morning. Together we are trying to develop a roadmap as part of

our School Improvement Planning focused on Belonging/Well-Being. We are still looking for any parents who may want to join us on our journey.

Strings/Band/itinerant music have continued. Our Band instruction takes place on M-W-F from 2:45-3:15. Strings also takes place M-W-F from 2:45-3:15. As far as our Winter Concerts are concerned, our tentative dates are Dec 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm for primary and dec 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm for junior students.

EQAO Results are expected to be released after Nov 3rd.

TDSB ECO schools has launched and Ms. Higginbottom & Ms. Lowe are guiding our student teams in this initiative.

Athletics- XC is going well with a number of our athletes going to the city finals. Soccer has gone well for both our girls & boys. Next up on the TDESSA Calendar: Girls' Basketball & Boys' Volleyball – these seasons will end before the winter break. It is interesting to note that although we are all pleased to have teams up & running, we have received parent complaints about some of our staff being away from their classes to cover coaching duties.

It has always been our opinion, supported by research, that learning takes place in a variety of locations, formats, and being part of a team, or a club, or an experience, is vitally important to the growth of students.

As far as Halloween is concerned, our parade will be on Monday the 31<sup>st</sup> starting at 1pm. Details regarding the Parade have been communicated in our newsletter. Ms. Talesnik's class will lead the parade. The parade route will allow all classes to visit all interior spaces within the building before proceeding outside. When in the yard, students will walk around the schoolyard, and then make their way to the parking lot entrance where they will re-enter the building. Parents have been asked to line up outside the perimeter fence on the Fairlawn, Greer and Brookdale sides for viewing purposes. Please note that if it is raining, the parade will go down to the basement and end in the big gym instead of going outside.

Photo Day took place on October 18<sup>th</sup>- we have scheduled a retake day on Nov 17th for those who may have missed it.

Progress Reports will be distributed electronically on Nov 15<sup>th</sup>.

Parents of Grade 3 students have received information about the CCAT or Universal screening which will continue until Oct 28<sup>th</sup>. The format is the same as last year.